

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY HEW:PBELL/EUR STAFF

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

EUR:WHLUERS

HEW:PBELL

EUR/SOV:MJWILKINSON

EUR/EE:JSEYMOU;

S/S:PTARNOFF

S/S-O: RCASTRODALE

-----010122 292313Z /66

O 292247Z MAY 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136044

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CALIFANO, JOSEPH A., JR.) US, UR, PL

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT OF HEW SECRETARY

1. SECRETARY CALIFANO HAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE HIS SCHEDULED VISIT TO USSR AND POLAND IN JUNE. HE PLANS TO PHONE RESPECTIVE AMBASSADORS MORNING OF MAY 30 AND STATEMENT WILL BE MADE TO PRESS LATER THE SAME DAY (SEE PARA 6 BELOW). NEW YORK TIMES MADE MENTION OF POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT IN MAY 29 FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ON US-USSR RELATIONS, REPORTED SEPTTEL TO MOSCOW.

2. FOR WARSAW: ACTION REQUESTED: YOU SHOULD SEEK AN
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APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER SLIWINSKI OR APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE ON MAY 30 TO CONVEY TEXT OF FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY CALIFANO (SIGNED ORIGINAL TO BE POUCHED):
BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

WITH CONSIDERABLE REGRET I MUST INFORM YOU OF THE POST-PONEMENT OF MY VISIT TO POLAND, WHICH I HAD HOPED TO MAKE NEXT MONTH IN RESPONSE TO YOUR KIND INVITATION.

UNFORTUNATELY SOME PREVIOUSLY UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTIES PREVENT ME FROM MAKING THE TRIP AT THIS TIME.

I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHTFUL ATTENTION YOU AND YOUR STAFF HAVE GIVEN TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT AND HOPE THAT IT CAN BE RESCHEDULED AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I LOOK FORWARD WITH PLEASURE TO VISITING POLAND AND TO SEEING YOU AGAIN.

WITH BEST WISHES

SINCERELY,

JOSEPH A. CALIFANO, JR.

END TEXT.

3. WHEN DELIVERING LETTER YOU SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE ARE INFORMING THE SOVIET UNION THAT SECRETARY
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CALIFANO'S VISIT TO MOSCOW IS BEING CANCELLED BECAUSE THE CLIMATE IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS NOW IS NOT RIGHT FOR IT.

-- UNFORTUNATELY, FOR SCHEDULING REASONS SECRETARY CALIFANO DOES NOT FEEL IT IS FEASIBLE TO MAKE THE TRIP SOLELY TO POLAND, SO HE HAS REGRETFULLY DECIDED TO PUT OFF HIS VISIT TO WARSAW.

-- THIS DECISION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE STATE OF US-POLISH RELATIONS, WHICH WE REGARD AS EXCELLENT.

-- SECRETARY CALIFANO HOPES TO RESCHEDULE HIS VISIT TO POLAND AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

-- SECRETARY CALIFANO HAS CABLED THE TEXT OF A LETTER EXPLAINING HIS DECISION WHICH HE ASKED ME TO PRESENT. AT THE SAME TIME, HE IS TELEPHONING AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI IN WASHINGTON TO INFORM HIM PERSONALLY.

4. FOR MOSCOW; ACTION REQUESTED. YOU SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER PETROVSKY OR APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE ON MAY 30 TO CONVEY

TEXT OF FOLLOWING LETTER (SIGNED ORIGINAL TO BE
POUCHED):

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

I HAVE RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED THAT I SHOULD POSTPONE
MY VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. I BELIEVE THAT MY VISIT
WOULD BE MORE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AT ANOTHER TIME.

I APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS THAT YOU AND YOUR STAFF HAVE
MADE FOR THE VISIT AND HOPE THAT ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE
RESUMED IN THE FUTURE.

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SINCERELY,

JOSEPH A. CALIFANO, JR.

END TEXT.

5. WHEN DELIVERING LETTER YOU SHOULD ORALLY CONVEY
SUBSTANCE OF HEW/CALIFANO PRESS STATEMENT IN FOLLOWING
PARAGRAPH.(PARA 6).

6. FOR MOSCOW AND WARSAW: FOLLOWING IS
TEXT OF HEW PRESS STATEMENT TO BE MADE MAY 30. FURTHER
CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE IS IN PARA 7 AND 8 BELOW.
EMBASSIES MAY DRAW ON MATERIAL AS APPROPRIATE FOR
DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS AND FOR PRESS
INQUIRIES.

BEGIN TEXT OF HEW RELEASE:

SECRETARY JOSEPH A. CALIFANO, JR. TODAY ANNOUNCED HE HAD
DECIDED TO POSTPONE A SIX DAY VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION,
WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 13.

THE SECRETARY'S VISIT HAD BEEN PLANNED IN RESPONSE TO
AN INVITATION FROM BORIS V. PETROVSKY, THE USSR MINISTER
OF HEALTH. SECRETARY CALIFANO AND MINISTER PETROVSKY
TOGETHER OVERSEE AGREEMENTS FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH
BETWEEN SOVIET AND AMERICAN SCIENTISTS IN SUCH AREAS
OF HEALTH AS CANCER, HEART DISEASES, ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH, ARTHRITIS AND INFLUENZA. DURING THE SECRETARY'S
VISIT THE TWO SENIOR HEALTH OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE REVIEWED
PROGRESS UNDER THE AGREEMENTS, AND EXCHANGED INFORMATION
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AND IDEAS IN OTHER AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO THE TWO COUNTRIES.

IN A LETTER DELIVERED TO MINISTER PETROVSKY THIS MORNING, SECRETARY CALIFANO STATED, "I HAVE RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED THAT I SHOULD POSTPONE MY VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. I BELIEVE THAT MY VISIT WOULD BE MORE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AT ANOTHER TIME."

IN CONNECTION WITH HIS LETTER TO MINISTER PETROVSKY, SECRETARY CALIFANO TODAY SAID:

"I HAVE REACHED THIS DECISION LARGELY OUT OF CONCERN OVER THE RECENT TRIAL AND SENTENCING OF THE PHYSICIST YURIY ORLOV AND CONTINUING DETENTION OF ALEKSANDR GINZBURG, AND ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY. BY SO TREATING ORLOV, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS CREATED CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WOULD MAKE COMMUNICATION ABOUT SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION STRAINED AT BEST. ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE DECIDED TO DEFER THE TRIP."

SECRETARY CALIFANO INDICATED HIS EXPECTATION THAT THE US-USSR AGREEMENTS FOR JOINT RESEARCH IN HEALTH WILL CONTINUE. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS COMMITMENT TO TRYING TO MAKE THE AGREEMENTS WORK WHERE THERE ARE PROSPECTS FOR PRODUCTIVE EXCHANGES.

SECRETARY CALIFANO CONSULTED WITH AND OBTAINED THE AGREEMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND OTHERS IN MAKING HIS DECISION. END TEXT.

7. THERE WILL BE NO MENTION OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE WARSAW STOP SO AS NOT TO RAISE THAT ASPECT AND SINCE THE VISIT TO WARSAW HAD NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED IN THE FIRST PLACE. WE WOULD HOPE TO AVOID ALL PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE POLISH CONNECTION. WE HAVE CONTINGENCY
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PRESS GUIDANCE TO HANDLE THE POLISH AND OTHER QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT ARISE. THIS PRESS GUIDANCE WILL BE USED AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SINCE HEW WISHES TO REFER ALL QUESTIONS TO STATE.

8. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE BY DEPARTMENT.OF STATE(IF ASKED ONLY):

Q: DOES THIS REFLECT ANY PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH POLAND?

A. NONE WHATSOEVER. THE WARSAW STOP WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE IT WAS FELT THAT, OWING TO SCHEDULING PROBLEMS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, IT WAS NOT FEASIBLE FOR SECRETARY CALIFANO TO MAKE A FOREIGN TRIP ONLY TO ONE COUNTRY AT THIS TIME. HE HAS WRITTEN TO THE POLISH HEALTH MINISTER TO EXPLAIN THIS AND EXPRESS HIS HOPE THAT THE VISIT CAN BE RESCHEDULED AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

Q. WHY WAS HE GOING TO POLAND ANYWAY?

A. WE HAVE WITH POLAND A BROAD RANGE OF COOPERATIVE PROJECTS AND JOINT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT HEALTH AREAS. POLISH HEALTH MINISTER SLIWINSKI VISITED THE U.S. LAST SEPTEMBER, AND SECRETARY CALIFANO HAS WANTED TO RESUME THEIR DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THESE PROJECTS AND TO SEE FIRST-HAND HOW THIS JOINT COOPERATION WORKS IN POLAND.

Q. I UNDERSTAND A CANCER DELEGATION HAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE A TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION. IS THIS TRUE?

A. A DELEGATION OF CANCER IMMUNOLOGY SPECIALISTS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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BOTH PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENTAL SCIENTISTS HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN A CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW JUNE 5. I UNDERSTAND THE DELEGATION HAS DECIDED NOT TO GO, BUT A FINAL DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN COMMUNICATED TO ITS SOVIET HOSTS. IN THIS AND THE TWO EARLIER CASES IN OTHER FIELDS, DECISIONS TO POSTPONE VISITS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE DELEGATION MEMBERS THEMSELVES ON THE BASIS OF THEIR OWN PERSONAL JUDGMENTS.

Q. ARE THERE OTHER HEW ACTIVITIES GOING AHEAD?

A. A DELEGATION OF INFLUENZA SPECIALISTS IS JUST COMPLETING MEETINGS WITH SOVIET COUNTERPARTS IN MOSCOW. PLANS SET IN PROGRESS EARLIER ARE GOING FORWARD FOR DELEGATIONS TO TRAVEL IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO THE USSR IN THE FIELDS OF CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES.

Q. DID THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ASK THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF SECRETARY CALIFANO'S TRIP BE DELAYED UNTIL GROMYKO LEFT WASHINGTON?

A. THE DECISION ON POSTPONEMENT WAS ONLY TAKEN LATE

YESTERDAY.

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